

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING DR. ROBERT BEICHNER ON BEING AWARDED THE 2011 HAROLD W. MCGRAW, JR. PRIZE IN EDUCATION

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2011

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Robert Beichner for receiving the prestigious 2011 Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education.

Dr. Beichner, an Alumni Distinguished Undergraduate Professor in the Department of Physics at North Carolina State University, is well-known for his work to improve teaching and learning at all levels and for a variety of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, fields. Since 2007, he has been the Director of North Carolina State University's STEM Education Initiative, with a mission to study and improve STEM education from "K to Gray" in North Carolina and around the world. His contributions to science education—from co-authoring a top-selling physics textbook to promoting new ways to educate our students in the classroom—reach far beyond the boundaries of his home campus in Raleigh, North Carolina.

As a first-generation college graduate, Dr. Beichner recognizes the benefits of hands-on instruction that are not typically well represented in STEM fields. One of his major efforts is the Student-Centered Active Learning Environment for Undergraduate Programs, or the SCALE-UP program, which utilizes methodology and teaching efforts proven to be successful in small class settings—such as hands-on activities, simulations and roundtable discussions—and adapts them for use in larger classrooms. The program fosters 21st century skills such as communication, problem-solving, and teamwork, and has been shown to improve students' ability to solve problems; increase conceptual understanding of STEM material; improve attitudes; and reduce failure rates among all demographics.

Since it was launched in the late 1990's, SCALE-UP has been adopted by more than 100 universities across the country—including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Clemson, and Wake Technical Community College—and is now moving into high schools, as well. This innovative curriculum development, evaluation, and dissemination effort is supported by the U.S. Department of Education, the National Science Foundation, Hewlett-Packard, and Pasco Scientific.

Dr. Beichner gained visibility when he co-authored Physics for Scientists and Engineers, the leading college physics textbook, which is used by more than one-third of all STEM college majors. Several years ago he created the PER-CENTRAL website, establishing an electronic "home base" for the Physics Education Research community, and he also consults with education researchers and reformers in biology, engineering, chemistry and statistics.

In addition, he is the founding editor of Physical Review Special Topics: Physics Education Research, the leading journal for those studying ways to improve the learning of physics.

Long regarded not only as an expert in his field, but also as a teacher and a mentor who has greatly influenced the lives and careers of his students and colleagues, Dr. Beichner has received a number of accolades for his education reform efforts. In 2009, he was named the North Carolina Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), and in 2010, he was recognized as the National Undergraduate Science Teacher of the Year from the Society of College Science Teachers and the National Science Teachers Association.

I am proud to see the list of honors continue with this year's awarding of the McGraw Prize in Education, which annually recognizes outstanding individuals who have dedicated themselves to improving education and who have demonstrated successes in doing so. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Beichner for his achievements in improving STEM education and fostering the next generation of leaders in STEM fields.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE COLLEGE OF NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2011

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer congratulations to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette College of Nursing and Allied Health Professions for its commitment to superior education and training. For the past 60 years, since the inception of the university's College of Nursing in 1951, its faculty and staff have been dedicated to educating and developing future healthcare employees of the highest caliber.

As a healthcare professional, I know the importance of a well-trained medical team. The faculty and staff of the UL Lafayette College of Nursing and Allied Health Professions work hard to provide their students with a first-rate education, making the college's graduates among the most coveted in the nation. Out-of-state hospitals seek UL Lafayette nursing graduates in hopes of gaining a staff member with superior skill and knowledge in the medical field.

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) at UL Lafayette is considered as one of the country's most prestigious healthcare degrees. UL Lafayette BSN graduates continually pass licensing exams at a higher rate than state and U.S. averages.

The college was named a 2005–2008 Center of Excellence in Nursing Education for On-going Faculty Development by the National

League for Nursing. UL Lafayette's program is one of only four in the United States to earn this title. The college was also recognized by the Louisiana State Nurses Association and the Louisiana Nurses Foundation, earning the 2008 Nursing School of the Year Nightingale Award.

Since 1989, healthcare students have also had the opportunity to earn a Graduate Degree at UL Lafayette. In 1996, the university began offering a Nurse Practitioner program, allowing students to continue utilizing the superior faculty and staff resources of the College of Nursing even after they have received their baccalaureate degree.

I commend the UL Lafayette College of Nursing and Allied Health Professions for their dedication and desire to grow and improve the medical community. I am honored to represent these brilliant and hard-working healthcare professionals in Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF REVEREND ROBERT H. WILSON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Reverend Dr. Robert H. Wilson, Sr., retired pastor and an executive of the National Baptist Convention of America, NBCA. Dr. Bob, as he was called, passed away on September 26.

Dr. Wilson was a beloved pastor of the church as much as he was the beloved father of two children, Roberta Nicholson and Robert H. Wilson, Jr. Dr. Wilson dedicated his entire life to his faith, having pastored his first congregation at the youthful age of 16 and then in various other congregations until he was 82 years old.

Gifted with the ability to effectively preach, Dr. Wilson would go on to pastor a number of churches throughout Texas, although his first experience as a pastor began in Columbia, South Carolina. Ultimately, his destiny led him back to Texas, reunited with his family.

Furthering his dedication to the church, Dr. Wilson founded his very own church in Dallas, the Cornerstone Baptist Church of Christ, where he pastored for 25 years.

Not surprisingly, Dr. Wilson made a number of contributions outside of his church as well, primarily with the NBCA. Dr. Wilson held a number of positions there, boasting 18 years of service as the first Congress Director for the National Baptist Congress of Christian Workers as well as being elected Secretary-Treasurer of the NBCA Foreign Mission Board. His wide range of contributions toward promoting his faith was diverse.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Wilson was loved and respected by all. He gave the ultimate sacrifice by dedicating his entire life to inspire and empower members of faith. His legacy will remain

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